

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-15 are now pending.

Claims 1-4, 7-8 and 11-12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(1) as being anticipated by [sic; obvious from] Igarashi in view of Takano and further in view of Fujii. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As the Examiner has recognized, Igarashi does not teach or suggest bobbin terminals as claimed having a second contact portion that contacts a first contact portion of a respective stator terminal when the stator is accommodated in the stator housing. The Examiner seeks to overcome the deficiencies of Igarashi with respect to the claimed invention by relying upon Takano and Fujii.

Claim 1 has been amended above to more specifically characterize the bobbin as having a pair of terminal grooves for receiving therein stator terminals so as to pass the stator terminals therethrough to dispose the first contact portions near the second contact portions when the stator is assembled to the stator housing.

Takano shows a groove 63 receiving retainer key 65 as a bobbin terminal. However, the bobbin of Takano does not teach or suggest the inclusion of any terminal grooves as specifically required by claim 1.

Fujii has been cited as showing a terminal groove 3. However, terminal groove 3 only holds a pin 6 via a terminal 4. As such, Fujii does not teach the modification of Takano so as to provide in the combination claimed including a pair of terminal grooves for automatically passing the first contact portions of stator terminals to be near the second contact portions of the bobbin terminals.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3-10 and 13-15 are not anticipated by nor obvious from the prior art cited by the Examiner.

Claim 11 has been amended to more specifically limit the bobbin to including a pair of terminal grooves formed at one end thereof near the pair of bobbin terminals to extend along the stator terminal so as to automatically pass the first contact portion to near the second contact portion when the stator is assembled into the stator housing. As noted above, none of the references cited by the Examiner, taken alone or in combination, suggest the foregoing characterizing features of the claimed invention. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 11 is allowable over the applied art as well.

Claim 12 has been amended to more specifically provide that the bobbin includes a pair of grooves extending along an end of each bobbin and the step of fitting the bobbin onto one of the teeth of the stator core and assembling the stator core to the stator housing to insert the stator terminals into the grooves of the bobbins, so that each bobbin terminal is brought into contact with one of the stator terminals. As noted above, the references cited by the Examiner, whether taken alone or in combination do not teach or suggest the above-noted features. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 12 is patentable over the applied art.

Claims 5, 6 and 10 were rejected as unpatentable over Igarashi, Takano, and Fujii and further in view of Batten. These claims are submitted to be patentable over the primary combination for the reasons advanced above. The Examiner's further reliance on Batten does not overcome the deficiencies of the primary references noted above. It is therefore respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable as well.

Claims 13-15 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Igarashi, Takano, Fujii and Katayama. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

KIMURA et al.
Appl. No. 10/615,784
August 2, 2006

Again, these claims are submitted to be patentable over the primary combination for the reasons advanced above. The Examiner's further reliance on Katayama does not overcome the deficiencies of the primary references noted above. It is therefore respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable as well.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 

Michelle N. Lester
Reg. No. 32,331

MNL:slj
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100